

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

Applicant:	Evoy et al.	Examiner:	Unknown
Serial No.:	09/955,809	Group Art Unit:	2131
Filed:	September 19, 2001	Docket No.:	VLSI.304PA
Title:	METHOD AND APPARATUS FOR DIGITAL ENCODING AND OPERATOR IDENTIFICATION USING STORED USER IMAGE		



CERTIFICATE UNDER 37 CFR 1.8: The undersigned hereby certifies that this correspondence and the papers, as described hereinabove, are being deposited in the United States Postal Service, as first class mail, in an envelope addressed to: Assistant Commissioner for Patents, Washington, D.C. 20231, on February 1, 2002.

By: Erin M. Nichols
Erin M. Nichols

INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT (37 C.F.R. §1.97(b))

Assistant Commissioner for Patents
Washington, D.C. 20231

Dear Sir:

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Technology Center 2100

With regard to the above-identified application, the items of information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 are brought to the attention of the Examiner.

This statement should be considered because it is submitted either within three months of the filing date or before the first Office Action of the above-identified application. Accordingly, no fee is due for consideration of the items listed on the enclosed Form 1449.

In accordance with 37 C.F.R. §1.98(a)(2), a copy of each document or other information listed on the enclosed Form 1449 is provided.

Please note that any notations or markings on the attached documents do not reflect particular relevance, or lack thereof, to the present application, nor were they necessarily made by anyone affiliated with the prosecution of the present application.

No representation is made that a reference is "prior art" within the meaning of 35 U.S.C. §§ 102 and 103 and Applicants reserve the right, pursuant to 37 C.F.R. § 1.131 or otherwise, to

establish that the reference(s) are not "prior art." Moreover, Applicants do not represent that a reference has been thoroughly reviewed or that any relevance of any portion of a reference is intended.

Consideration of the items listed is respectfully requested. Pursuant to the provisions of M.P.E.P. 609, it is requested that the Examiner return a copy of the attached Form 1449, marked as being considered and initialed by the Examiner, to the undersigned with the next official communication.

Respectfully submitted,

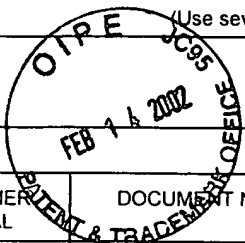
Crawford PLLC
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Suite 390
St. Paul, MN 55120
651/686-6633

Dated: February 1, 2002

By: 

Robert J. Crawford
Reg. No. 32,122

FORM 1449* INFORMATION DISCLOSURE STATEMENT IN AN APPLICATION (Use several sheets if necessary)	Docket Number: VLSI.304PA	Application Number: 09/955,809
	Applicant: Evoy et al.	
	Filing Date: 9/19/2001	Group Art Unit: 2131



U.S. PATENT DOCUMENTS

EXAMINER INITIAL	DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	NAME	CLASS	SUBCLASS	FILING DATE IF APPROPRIATE
	4,077,053	2/28/1978	Ishiguro			
	5,438,357	8/1/1995	McNelley			
	5,675,669	10/7/1997	Kim			
	5,821,987	10/13/1998	Larson			
	5,889,549	3/30/1999	Yasuda et al.			
	5,963,245	10/5/1999	McDonald			
	6,188,726	2/13/2001	Hirabayashi			

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DOCUMENT NO.	DATE	COUNTRY	CLASS	SUBCLASS		

OTHER DOCUMENTS (Including Author, Title, Date, Pertinent Pages, Etc.)

EXAMINER	DATE CONSIDERED
EXAMINER: Initial if reference considered, whether or not citation is in conformance with MPEP 609; draw line through citation if not in conformance and not considered. Include copy of this form for next communication to the Applicant.	